



The Florida House of Representatives

Chris Sprowls
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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***Tampa Bay Times* Op-ed Praises Speaker Sprowls' Workforce Agenda: "This is the ideal moment to redesign Florida's workforce"**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (April 14, 2021) — For House Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, revamping Florida's education and career training programs to help people get meaningful jobs is a top priority. As he mentioned during his Organization Speech, Florida currently spends millions of dollars each year on outdated workforce systems that measure only inputs.

Speaker Sprowls has challenged the House to create an Opportunity Agenda that zeroes in on working-class families. Aakash Patel, the founder and President of Elevate, Inc. praised the Speaker for his leadership in a recent *Tampa Bay Times* op-ed.

Here's what you may have missed (emphasis added):

Tampa Bay Times

[This is the ideal moment to redesign Florida's workforce](#)

Tampa Bay Times, by Aakash Patel, April 9, 2021

"If there is a right time to improve how Floridians can learn about the best opportunities for new jobs or about job training to learn new skills, a pandemic that has upended the state's economy is it. ...

"The bottom line: ***This is the ideal moment to redesign our workforce and education systems to efficiently serve Floridians and prepare them to succeed in a redesigned economy.*** We

are fortunate that Gov. Ron DeSantis and **House Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor**, are making this overhaul a priority during this legislative session. ...

“Under Sprowls’ steady leadership, the House is preparing a comprehensive solution. One of the key pieces is the Reach Act, HB 1507. It would create a framework that integrates the pieces of the workforce development puzzle, require more accountability and makes it easier to prepare for and seek employment for both students and workers. This sweeping legislation would make a real difference by modernizing Florida’s workforce delivery system, and it would give the state more flexibility to oversee workforce investment across the state....

“This is an ambitious effort, and it’s critical for Florida’s economic future. As the state recovers from the pandemic, we have to ensure Floridians have a solid grasp of new job opportunities and access to the training needed to learn the skills to succeed in those jobs.”

Learn more about the Speaker’s workforce agenda [here](#) and [here](#). The REACH Act is slated to be considered on the House Floor on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 13-14. Follow along at www.myfloridahouse.gov

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